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DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955



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Town Hall,
ULVERSTON.

November, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1955.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres	8,022
Population-Census, 1951	10,398
-Registrar General's Estimate of home population, mid 1955	10,320
Number of inhabited houses	3,473
Rateable Value	£45,637
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£170

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is situated in the North Western part of the County of Lancashire adjoining the County Borough of Barrow-in-Furness and the Rural District of Ulverston. Height above Ordnance Datum varies between 850 feet in the north-east to sea level in the west. There are outcrops of limestone in various parts of the District and in the past there has been extensive mining for iron ore which has left the surface considerably scarred and some of the low lying area flooded with water. Subsidence still occurs.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for the year 1955 and for the preceding five years are given in the table on page 2.

Of the 148 births registered, 66 were males 5 being illegitimate, and 82 were females, of which 7 were illegitimate.

Approximately 65% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over and the principal causes of death were:- Heart Disease 43, Vascular lesions of the nervous system 27 and Malignant Growths 16.

Year.	Live Births.		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths.		Maternal Mortality.		Infant Mortality. Total			Rate per 1,000 regis- tered. at- tion.
	Number 1,000 regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation.	Number 1,000 regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation.	Number 1,000 regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths 1,000 regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	No. of deaths 1,000 regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	No. of deaths 1,000 regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.
1955	148	^x 14.3	141	^x 13.7	2	13	NIL	NIL	6	41	4	27
1954	148	14.4	121	12.7	5	33	NIL	NIL	5	34	1	7
1953	136	13.2	126	12.3	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	6	44	5	37
1952	165	16.0	143	13.8	3	18	1	5.95	5	30	4	24
1951	161	15.6	170	16.5	4	24	NIL	NIL	9	56	5	31
1950	155	14.7	143	13.5	4	25	NIL	NIL	6	39	3	19
Average 5 years 1950-54	-	14.8	-	13.8	-	20	-	1	-	40	-	24

^x Live birth rate (comparability factor, 1.03) = 14.8 per 1,000

Death rate (comparability factor, 0.96) = 13.1 per 1,000

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 160 smaller towns and this district.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

	England and Wales.		160 Smaller towns 25,000-50,000 population.		Dalton-in-Furness Urban District.	
Year.	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1955	15.0	11.7	14.9	11.6	14.8	13.1
1954	15.2	11.3	15.4	11.3	14.8	12.2
1953	15.5	11.4	15.7	11.3	14.3	11.9
1952	15.3	11.3	15.5	11.2	17.2	13.4
1951	15.5	12.5	16.7	12.5	16.9	16.0

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:-

J.L.WILD. M.A., M.B., B.Chir.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health,
Ulverston Urban District
Council, Grange-over-Sands
Urban District Council,
Ulverston Rural District
Council.

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1.
Lancashire County Council.

Sanitary Inspector:-

W.W. JACKSON. C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Meat and other Foods
Inspector's Certificate R.S.I.
Certificate in Sanitary
Science as applied to
Buildings and Public Works.

Other Appointments Held:-

Cleansing Superintendent -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban
District.
Housing Officer -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban
District.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is provided with water by the Barrow-in-Furness Corporation in mains belonging to the County Borough Council. Dalton is supplied from Peaka Beck Reservoir and Askam from the Ulpha Intake of the River Duddon.

The supply was adequate during the year.

The public supply now serves 3,443 houses direct and the number served by standpipes remains the same as before, namely 13. There are 17 houses supplied from private sources, 4 cottages at Tythe Barn having been connected to the mains supply.

SEWERAGE.

The sewerage from Dalton is taken to screening tanks near the gasworks and the effluent is then discharged to the Barrow Corporation sewerage system. The sewage from Askam is passed through screening tanks and the effluent discharged to the Duddon Estuary. Sewage from the hamlets of Newton and Martin passes through settling tanks, the effluent being discharged to streams. Lindal possesses a modern sewage works and full treatment is given, the effluent being discharged into a nearby stream.

As a result of the improved water supply at Tythe Barn 4 privy middens were converted to w.c.'s, and there now remain 31 privy middens and 8 pail closets in the district.

HOUSING

Property in the District is generally 60-80 years old, terrace type, opening direct on to the street. For the most part the houses are structurally sound, but many are without modern amenities such as baths and hot water systems and some are being allowed to fall into disrepair on account of the high cost of repairs and low rents. There is a general lack of damp courses but little evidence of rising dampness.

	<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Flats.</u>
Number of new houses erected during the year:-		
(1) By local authority	20	Nil
(2) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	1	Nil

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	56
	Number of inspections made for the purpose, formal or informal	89
(2)	Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit	
	Number found during the year	12
	Number at end of year	10
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found during year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	56

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.)

(1)	Number of dwelling houses demolished during the year	10
(2)	Number of persons displaced	33

3.	Houses not included in Clearance Areas:-		
(1)	Houses demolished or closed during year:	<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Persons Displaced.</u>
(a)	<u>Housing Act, 1936.</u>		
	Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	10	27
	Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	-	-
	Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	-	-
(b)	<u>Housing Act, 1949.</u>		
	Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	Nil	-
(c)	<u>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.</u>		
	Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	Nil	-
(2)	Repairs during the year		<u>Number of Houses.</u>
(a)	Unfit houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts.		40
(b)	<u>Public Health Acts</u> - Action after service of formal notice - houses in which defects were remedied:-		
	By owners		12
	By local authority in default of owners		Nil
(c)	<u>Housing Act, 1936</u> action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) Houses made fit:-		
	By owners		Nil
	By local authority in default of owners		Nil
(d)	<u>Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954.</u>		
	Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)		Nil
4.	<u>Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.</u>		
(1)	Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7		Nil
(2)	Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)		Nil
5.	<u>Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants etc.,</u>		
	Action during the year:-	<u>No. of Schemes.</u>	<u>No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected</u>
(a)	Submitted by private individuals to local authority.	50	50
(b)	Submitted by local authority to Ministry	-	-
(c)	Finally approved by Ministry	-	-
(d)	Work completed	46	50

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details regarding the inspection of food are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

MILK SUPPLIES.

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 -

Number of registered distributors operating from:-

(a)	Dairies in the district	3
(b)	Dairy farms in the district	17
(c)	Shops in the district other than dairies	1
(d)	Premises outside the district	3

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 -

No. of dealers licences issued by the local authority during 1955 in respect of:-	"Tuberculin Tested" Milk	6
	"Accredited" Milk	Nil

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949.

No. of licences issued in respect of "Heat Treated" milk.	Retail distributors.	
	(a) "Pasteurised"	6
	(b) "Sterilised"	Nil

Results of samples of milk taken in the district:-

Raw Milk:-	<u>Number of samples.</u>	<u>Number satisfactory.</u>	<u>Number unsatisfactory.</u>
Tuberculosis - biological tests	Nil	-	-
Methylene Blue reduction test	8	7	1
B. Coli examinations	8	7	1
Sediment tests	8	8	Nil

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases inspected and condemned within the district.

	<u>Cattle excluding cows.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number killed	29	26	Nil	106	23
Number inspected	29	26	Nil	106	23
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	-	-	-	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	27.6%	-	-	-	4.3%
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.4%	-	-	-	-

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the numbers of cases of notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Urban District during the 5 years 1950-1954 compared with the numbers in 1955.

Diseases.	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	<u>1955</u> Number Removed of to cases. hospital. Deaths.		
Scarlet fever	28	0	11	6	2	1	0	0
Measles	100	36	47	298	67	22	0	0
Whooping cough	1	27	18	9	58	22	1	0
Pneumonia	0	1	3	4	2	1	0	0
Puerperal pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Dysentery	0	3	1	0	0	2	1	0
Erysipelas	5	3	4	2	3	1	0	0
Cerebro - spinal fever	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia neonatorum	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Infective encephalitis	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Post infective encephalitis	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Food poisoning	0	0	13	0	1	1	0	0
TOTALS	134	75	99	320	133	51	3	0

The incidence of infectious disease has been low during the year.

6 houses were disinfected by formaldehyde vapour, following tuberculosis, and clothing and bedding has been disinfected by steam when necessary at Devonshire Road Hospital, Barrow-in-Furness.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the numbers of new cases and mortality during 1955.

Age Periods.	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
65-	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
75 & upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
	12		0		0		0	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Dalton residents during the past 12 years.

	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1944	4	4	4	1	5	2	0	0
1945	13	7	1	2	7	1	0	0
1946	4	7	0	2	2	8	1	0
1947	9	8	4	3	2	1	1	0
1948	7	10	3	2	1	5	0	0
1949	10	4	1	4	2	0	2	0
1950	3	7	2	3	3	0	1	1
1951	8	8	2	2	3	0	2	1
1952	4	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
1953	9	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
1954	10	4	1	0	1	1	0	0
1955	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0

The decline in the number of new cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis over the past 12 years will be noticed. It is largely due to the comparative rarity nowadays of tuberculous glands of neck, which in turn can be attributed to the gradual eradication of tuberculous milk.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector)

Premises.	Number on Register.	<u>Number of</u> Inspections Written Occupiers Notices. Prosecuted.		
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	9	9	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	37	34	Nil	Nil

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 - 1951

No action was required under the above mentioned Acts during 1955.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector is appended.

In conclusion, it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the officers of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council, particularly the Sanitary Inspector, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

On the occasion of the Annual Report on the work of the Health Department and Cleansing Service for 1955, I am happy to say that the work proceeded without any serious circumstances arising.

The time required for carrying out works of repair to property does not appear to have eased any. The various trades appear to have a considerable amount of work on their books and the labour force is not sufficiently large to carry out the work without considerable delay. The cost of repairs is still a very serious matter where rent income is low. The number of landlords who have taken advantage of current legislation to increase the rent is very small.

MILK SUPPLY.

All the samples of milk except one, taken during the year for bacteriological examination proved to be satisfactory. These are not numerous since by far the greatest percentage of Dalton's milk is pasteurised at the Barrow Dairies.

FOOD SUPPLY.

Two hundred and sixty four visits were made to various food shops in the town and I am glad to say that the general standard of cleanliness is very good.

It is this type of work where one of the greatest opportunities occurs to impress upon food handlers the necessity for scrupulous cleanliness.

The following articles of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

14 tins of meat	1 tin of spaghetti
57 tins of fruit	5 lbs. of jam
13 tins of peas	3 jars of salad cream
9 tins of milk	3 jars of pickles
5 tins of fish	30 lbs. of bacon
12 tins of tomatoes	18 lbs. of meat
1 tin of soup	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of cocoa

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

This has been a satisfactory year and no trouble has been experienced at the seven fried fish shops and the one Knackers Yard.

ICE CREAM.

There is now only one shop at which ice cream is manufactured in this area, which is kept in a satisfactory condition.

Samples are difficult to obtain as the manufacturing process is very irregular, being dependent upon the demand at the time, and it is often necessary to make a number of calls before a sample can be taken.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

This service continues to operate without undue complaint, the Annual holidays being staggered over the summer.

I feel I must comment on the fact that the refuse is disposed of at Elliscales tip by means of crude tipping as has been the case for many years. This is a most undesirable practice and the only thing that can be said in favour of Elliscales tip is its isolation.

There are thirty one privies, eight pail closets and thirty four dry ashpits in the area, these being at outlying places.

During the year 87 tons of waste paper valued at £720 and rags to the value of £19 were disposed of.

The corresponding amounts for the year 1954 were 40 tons of paper valued at £265 and rags to the value of £20.

HOUSING.

It is with pleasure that I report on the condition of the list of applicants for Council houses. Owing to the Council's activities over the past two or three years, the really urgent cases of bad housing conditions have been dealt with, those which remain are of recent origin.

With the exception of three bungalows, the temporary housing accommodation used by the Council on the North Lodge Site have now disappeared.

In conclusion I am happy to record the good feelings existing between the various trades of the town and the Health Department in its activities. My thanks are due to the Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health and other Officers of the Council for their unstinted co-operation and to Miss Atkinson and the cleansing staff without whose assistance the work of the Department cannot successfully go on.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

W. W. JACKSON.

Sanitary Inspector.

